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At the present time an educational director and teachers have been stationed at the following points: Greenville, S. C.; Rutland, Mass.; El Paso, Tex.; Sanatorium, N. C.; Perryville, Md.; Saranac Lake, N. Y.; New Haven, Conn.; and Alexandria, La. Surveys and preliminary arrangements are being made at other points, including Soldiers' Home, Johnson City, Tenn.; Biltmore, N. C.; and other places.

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### **POWER TO CLOSE SCHOOLS DURING INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC.**

The Supreme Court of Oregon has decided <sup>1</sup> that under the statutes of that State the State board of health has no authority to order the closing of public schools on account of the existence of communicable disease.

An action was brought against a school district to enforce payment on a contract to furnish transportation to school children. As a defense the school district showed that on account of the existence of influenza the county health officer had ordered the school to be closed pursuant to an order of the State board of health. This raised the question as to the authority of the State board of health to order such closing.

The statute provides that "The State board of health shall have general supervision of the interests of the health and life of citizens of the State," and "it shall make and is hereby empowered to enforce such quarantine regulations as seem best for the preservation of the public health." Another statute provides that school "boards shall have entire control of the public schools of their districts and the teachers employed therein." In construing these statutes the supreme court held that the State board of health did not have authority to order schools to be closed, but that such closing rested in the sound discretion of the school board.

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### **DAMAGES ALLOWED FOR LEAD POISONING.**

The Supreme Court of Illinois has decided <sup>2</sup> that under section 15 of the Illinois Occupational Disease Act an employee who contracted lead poisoning through the willful failure of the employer to provide the proper safeguards required by the statute may recover damages for the illness so caused.

The plaintiff, after working in a lead plant for about five months, was compelled to stop work on account of lead poisoning. He brought

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<sup>1</sup> Crane v. School Dist. No. 14 of Tillamook County, 183 Pac. 712.

<sup>2</sup> Labanoski v. Hoyt Metal Co., 126 N. E. 548.